

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-04 EB-05 IGA-02 /071 W

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P 230842 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6951

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AIDAC

PASS AGR/ EMS

SUBJ: CY 73 PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM

KOREA RICE STATISTICS

REF: (A) STATE 49863, (B) SEOUL 352, (C) SEOUL 1696,

(D) STATE 43369, (E) STATE 53430

1. UPDATED S& D TABLES AND IMPORT STATISTICS REQUESTED
PARA FOUR REF (A) FOLLOW. (ALL NUMBERS IN THOUSANDS
OF MT, BASED ON KOREAN RICE YEAR, NOV. 1 - OCT. 31.
S& D TABLES ON POLISHED RICE BASIS, IMPORT STATISTICS
ON BROWN RICE BASIS):

(A) S& D TABLES (POLISHED BASIS): READ IN COLUMNS
1971 AND 972 ACTUAL, 1973 ESTIMATED, 1974 PROJECTED:
SUPPLY: CARRY- IN - 325, 394, 617, 464;
DOMESTIC PRODUCTION - 3939, 3997, 3640, 4000 ; IMPORTS -
925, 582, 567, 450 FOOTNOTE ONE ; TITLE I - (180), (469), (220),
NONE; AID/ DL - (174), (104), (144), BLANK; JAPAN- LOAN -
(54 1) , NONE, (135), BLANK; BARTER - (30), (9), NONE, BLANK;
KFX - NONE, NONE, (68), BLANK; TOTAL SUPPLY - 5189, 4973,
4824, 4914.

DISTRIBUTION: CONSUMPTION - 4614, 4194, 4200,
4300; SEED, WASTE - 163, 162, 160, 160; CARRY- OUT -412,
61 7, 464, 454; TOTAL DISTRIBUTION - 5189, 4973, 4824, 4914,
FOOTNOTE ONE: IMPORT REQUIREMENT FOR WHICH FINANCING
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NOT YET DETERMINED.

(B) IMPORT STATISTICS (BROWN BASIS). READ IN
COLUMNS 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 ACTUAL, 1973 ESTIMATED,
1974 PROJECTED:

CONCESSIONAL: TITLE I - NONE, 351, 270, 200, 521,
240 FOOTNOTE ONE, BLANK; AID/DL - NONE, NONE, NONE,
172, 117, 160, BLANK; JAPAN (LOAN) - NONE, 333, 300, 602,
NONE, 150, BLANK; JAPAN (GRANT) - NONE, NONE, EIGHT,
NONE, NONE, NONE, BLANK; TOTAL - NONE, 6 84, 578, 974,
638, 550, 340.

COMMERCIAL: KFX (ALL US) - 240, 155, 22, NONE,
NONE, 80, BLANK; BARTER (TAIWAN) - NONE, NONE, NONE,
20, NONE, NONE, BLANK; BARTER (ARGENTINA) - NONE, NONE,
NONE, SIX, NONE, NONE, BLANK; BARTER (UAR) - NONE,
NONE, NONE, FOUR, TEN, NONE, BLANK;

TOTAL COMMERCIAL - 240, 155, 22, 30, 10, 80, 160; TOTAL
IMPORTS - 240, 839, 600, 1004, 648, 630, 500 FOOTNOTE TWO.
FOOTNOTE ONE INCLUDES 100,000 MT CARRYOVER FROM
CY 1972 PROGRAM AND 140,000 MT FROM CY 1973 PROGRAM.
FOOTNOTE TWO: FINANCING NOT YET DETERMINED.
BREAKDOWN REPRESENTS ROKG ESTIMATE OF LIKELY
FINANCING BETWEEN CONCESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL.

2. ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD (EPB) REPEATED REQUEST
FOR INCLUSION DOLS. 32 MILLION (140,000 MT RICE) IN 1973
AGREEMENT WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT DELIVERY WOULD
OCCUR DURING SECOND HALF OF 1973. ROKG MAKING EVEN
GREATER EFFORTS THAN LAST YEAR TO REDUCE RICE
CONSUMPTION SUCH AS REQUIRING SEVENTY PERCENT RICE
THIRTY PERCENT BARLEY MIX IN 1973 (1972 MIX WAS
80-20) AND BY REQUIRING ALL COMMERCIAL USERS OF
RICE TO USE THIS RICE/ BARLEY COMBINATION. ALSO ALL RELEASES
FROM GOVT. STOCKS ARE AT THIS RATIO. HOWEVER,
FURTHER REDCUTIONS IMILAR TO THAT ACHIEVED IN 1972
FROM 1971 NOT LIKELY. ADDITIONAL DECREASES MORE
LIKELY WILL NOT EXCEED THAT REQUIRED TO OFFSET
POPULATION INCREASE. THESE EFFORTS EMPHASIZE
GRAVITY WITH WHICH ROKG REGARDS GRAIN SUPPLY
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SITUATION, PARTICULARLY GOVERNMENT HELD RICE

STOCKS. LATER WILL BE ALMOST COMPLETELY DEPLETED BY END 1973 (ONLY 23,000 MT ESTIMATED WILL REMAIN). 140,000 MT UNDER CY 1973 TITLE I PROGRAM WOULD BRING TOTAL TO ABOUT 150,000 MT (POLISHED BASIS) WHICH ROKG REGARDS AS ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO ENABLE THEM INFLUENCE MARKET PRICES AND MEET RICE REQUIREMENTS FOR ROK MILITARY.

3. WHILE RECOGNIZING KOREAN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION FIGURES LACK OPTIMUM PRECISION, MISSION BELIEVES FOREGOING S& D DAT CORRECTLY PORTRAY SERIOUS SUPPLY SITUATION AND WARRANTS APPROVAL OF DOLS. 32 MILLION FOR RICE IN 1973 AGREEMENT. THIS ASSESSMENT IS REINFORCED BY OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CONCERNED ROKG OFFICIALS AND INCREASINGLY RESTRICTIVE MEASURES OF THE ROKG.

4. RECOMMEND APPROVAL ACTION BE INITIATED ASAP OF THE DOLS. 32 MILLION RICE INCREMENT IN THE 1973 PROGRAM, EPB HAS AGAIN REQUESTED PEFERENCE FOR SIGNING FULL AGREEMENT AT DOLS. 126.8 MILLION LEVEL. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO OUR PRESENTATION OF SHIPPING AND BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS REFERRED TO IN PARA TWO REF (E), EPB WISHES TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE AND ASSURE DELIVERIES WITHIN FY 1973 OF ITEMS LISTED PARA FOUR REF (D). ACTION HAS, THEREFORE, BEEN INITIATED BY EPB TO DETERMINE TIME REQUIRED FOR THE VARIOUS PROCUREMENT ACTIONS SO THAT TIMELY SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WILL BE ASSURED EITHER AT THE DOLS. 94.8 LEVEL OR DOLS. 126.8 LEVEL, DEPENDING ON TIMING OF AUTHORIZATION OF RICE INCREMENT IF APPROVED.

5. WILL ADVISE DEVELOPMENTS THIS END. IN MEANTIME, REQUEST ADVICE OF PROGRESS OF RICE REQUEST APPROVAL.
DECON 6/30/73
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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